

ATTACHMENT A

Assistive Technology LSTA Grant Program

For several years, the State Library has offered an Adaptive Technology LSTA grant to public libraries. We would like to improve that program by updating resources eligible for funding, adding two components, and better characterize it by calling it the Assitive Technology program.

1. Expand Assistive Technology Resources

Prior eligible resources were good, but not as extensive as they could be, given updates to some and the development of new products. The Missouri Assistive Technology staff has been a good resource for us. Kay attended their 2004 Power Up conference.

2. Library Staff Training

Library staff training is essential. Staff must be comfortable using assistive technology. In the past some equipment has been purchased by libraries but not fully implemented because staff was not adequately trained on how to operate the equipment, nor on how to assist patrons needing to use it. Most important, staff must be comfortable working with people with disabilities. Therefore, sensitivity training is essential.

3. Education

Anecdotal evidence indicates that librarians would welcome and benefit from information about available assistive technology resources appropriate for public libraries, and ADA compliance expectations. In general, resources or services available to persons without a disability should be accessible to persons with a disability.

We'd appreciate feedback on the following questions:

- Would it be helpful to develop publications for libraries on accessibility issues?
- Are more assistive technology resources needed in libraries?
- What libraries may need help with better equipping themselves with assisitive technology and training?
- What kinds of training needs to be offered that we have not thought of?
- What models may exist that would be helpful to look at?